

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 /085 W  
-----123000 291117Z /13

R 280927Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
GYRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 267  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SY  
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND ARAB LEAGUE CENTRAL  
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BOYCOTT OFFICE IN DAMASCUS

REF: (A) STATE 142390, (B) STATE 146034

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES INSTRUCTIONS REF (A) PERMITTING  
APPROACHES TO SYRIAN BOYCOTT OFFICIALS AND ARAB LEAGUE  
CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE. SUCH APPROACHES WILL PERMIT

US NOT ONLY TO SEEK BENEFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS AND MODICP  
ATIONS OF EXISTING BOYCOTT REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES WITH OFFICIALS MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED BUT ALSO TO OBTAIN DIRECT, NON-HEARSAY INFORMATION AS TO JUST WHAT THOSE REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES ARE. GIVEN PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO BOYCOTT MEASURES AS WELL AS PRESENCE OF ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE IN DAMASCUS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN EXPLOGNS POSSIBLE SYRIAN AND ARAB LEAGUE ACCOMMODATION WITH NEW U.S. LEGISLATION. IN CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL GM DEALER, WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS MEANT AS MESSAGE TO USG, ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT OFFICE COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHJOUR MADE THE POINT OF STATING THAT BOYCOTT OFFICE WAS PREPARED TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED WE MADE NO PUBLIC ISSUE OF MATTER.

2. INITIAL EMBASSY CONTACT WITH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MWTTER HAS BEEN PRIVATE AND OFF-THE-RECORD CONVERSATION JUNE 23 BY ECONOFF WITH MINFIN AYYOUBI. AYYOUBI PASSED ALONG THE ADVICE THAT SO FAR AS SARG POLICY CONCERNED THE KEY TO ACHIEVING ACCOMMODATION WE WANT IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE RECOMMENDED WE LAY CAREFUL GROUNDWORK WITH MINECON IMADI SO THAT ISSUES COULD BE PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT IN NON-EMOTIONAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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ECONOMIC CONTEXT. IN DEALING WITH THE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE, AYYOUBI RECOMMENDED WE DEAL ONLY WITH COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHJOUR AS HIS DEPUTIES ARE INDIVIDUALS EAGER TO SHOW THEIR CREDENTIALS AS STALWART SUPPORTERS OF THE BOYCOTT BUT LACK AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS. ECONOFF ALSO CAME AWAY FROM SESSION WITH AYYOUBI CONVINCED THAT ALL MISSION OFFICERS WHO WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCUSSING ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE WITH ARAB OFFICIALS MUST HAVE THOROUGH PREPARATION AND GROUNDING ON ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND FOLLOW-ON REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS USG POLICY.

3. REGARDING PROPOSED STATE-COMMERCE DELEGATION, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE SMALL AND TECHNICAL IN ORIENTATION, AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT BRIEFING AMBASSADORS AND ECONOMIC STAFFS OF MIDDLE EAST MISSIONS. REASONS FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION ARE: FIRST, THAT OUR APPROACHES TO EACH ARAB GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO BE TAILORED TO MEET ORIENTATION AND PARTICULAR SENSITIVITIES OF OFFICIALS INVOLVED; SECONDLY, TO BE SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE ON BOYCOTT WILL HAVE TO BE CONTINUOUS; AND, THIRDLY, IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON MANY LEVELS, INCLUDING NOT ONLY TOP-

LEVEL CONTACTS BUT ALSO DAY-TO-DAY WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AND USAID OFFICERS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS. IN ADDITION, THIS TYPE OF DELEGATION WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ATTRACT ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH COULD HARDEN LOCAL ATTITUDES.

4. POST WOULD WELCOME SUCH A VISIT AS SOON AS STATE-COMMERCE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE A DELEGAION WHICH CAN GIVE AUTHORITATIVE INTEPRETATION OF LAW AND ITS REGULATIONS. SECOND TEAM MIGHT BE PLANNED LATER IN 1977 AFTER REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTED TO KEEP POSTS UP TO DATE. WE WOULD ALSO PREFER BRIEFINGS TO TAKE PLACE HERE SO THAT ALL INTERESTED OFFICERS CAN PARTICIPATE AND ALSO TO AVOID ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH REGIONAL GATHERING

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MIGHT ATTRACT.

5. IN ADDITION TO TELEGRAPHED TEXT, POST WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE TEN COPIES OF FULL OFFICIALLY PRINTED TEXT OF LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SUGGEST ALSO THAT DEPARTMENT PREPARE AUTHORITATIVE ARAB LANGUAGE TEXT OF LAW TO AVOID MULTIPLE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS BEING PREPARED BY VARIOUS POSTS AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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